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Ms Hesse,

I would like to comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement.

As an independent software developer who has been unemployed for most of the last 14 months, I very much feel the economic recession. Although the "dot-com" bust is undoubtedly a reason for the current lack of jobs, it is the predatory monopolistic practices of Microsoft Corporation which I feel is the main reason for the situation so many of us independent software developers find ourselves in.

The FUD, (fear, uncertainty and doubt) fostered by Microsoft's actions with regards to the Java programming language has severely limited the expansion of Internet software capabilities and the attendant programmer employment. Also, the way Microsoft has positioned its ".NET" strategy, as an alternative to the current Internet experience, rather than positioning it as an embrace and extend, has stagnated the development of Internet based computer applications. As an individual who chooses to develop and deploy Internet solutions on non-Microsoft software platforms, this has locked me out of business opportunities.

The three pillars of justice: restraint, rehabilitation and retribution are not adequately addressed by this proposal. While a measure of rehabilitation needs time for accountability, the settlement provides no relief from the monopolistic force of Microsoft's Internet browser, why is it that this is permitted? Microsoft must be forced to market their browser independent from their operating system. Also there is no retribution available to the thousands of companies and the over hundred thousand engineers who have been affected by Microsoft's actions. The Microsoft education proposal is a mockery of accounting and a piece of candy for Microsoft's thrust into education. I spent five years on the Riverview School District technology committee which is in King County, Washington; and a third of that time was spent trying to prevent the takeover of the computer resources by those who mistakenly believe that a single computer supplier is beneficial to the educational system.

I have encountered the lies, sabotage and intimidation of Microsoft for fifteen years now and I'm angry about the situation.

I have enclosed a link to my resume, from which you can see I have been involved in software development which includes important work I did for the Apollo Space Program.

<<http://home.earthlink.net/~cascades/resume/BaissResume.html>>



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